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26 October 1953

IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS DURING 1953

1. Through high priority effort starting in 1945, the USSR has achieved a full-fledged nuclear weapons production program.
2. On the basis of information now available, including that obtained from Soviet tests conducted during the summer of 1953, it is concluded that the Soviets can produce weapon types which utilize fission and thermonuclear reactions and that they now have the capability to produce weapons which vary in explosive power from the equivalent of a few thousand tons to the order of hundreds of thousands of tons of TNT.
3. At present, the Soviet nuclear weapons stockpile is sufficiently large to cause substantial damage and loss of life if delivered on target in the nations of the Free World. These weapons can be carried by existing Soviet aircraft types.
4. The Soviet program will probably continue to expand. However, the total destructive power of the weapons which such a program can possibly produce will continue to be far smaller than that which can be unleashed by the Free World as retaliation to aggression.

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